

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 17, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 107

Introduced by Senator Kehoe
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Nava)

March 21, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 107—Relative to the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 107, as amended, Kehoe. Homeland security: emergency services.

~~Under existing law, the Blue Ribbon Fire Commission is established in state government by action of the Governor to investigate the circumstances surrounding the October 2003 fires in southern California and that commission recommended the establishment of a permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security.~~

~~This measure would create *increase the membership of* the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security, with specified membership of *from 14 total members, with 7 members from each house of the Legislature, to 18 total members, with 9 members from each house of the Legislature.* The joint committee would be constituted as an investigating committee of the houses, and its powers would include making recommendations as to legislation and forming technical advisory committees to assist it in carrying out its duties. The joint committee would continue in existence until November 30, 2006.~~

Fiscal committee: no.

1 ~~WHEREAS, California is the site of some of the most~~
2 ~~extraordinary natural disasters in North America, including fires;~~
3 ~~earthquakes, floods, landslides, mudslides, insect infestations;~~
4 ~~and drought; and~~

5 ~~WHEREAS, California is the nation's most populous state,~~
6 ~~home to many of the nation's most desirable tourist destinations,~~
7 ~~and home to many of the nation's most critical military~~
8 ~~installations, and as such California is especially sensitive to the~~
9 ~~threat of terrorism; and~~

10 ~~WHEREAS, In October 2003, southern California experienced~~
11 ~~the most devastating wild land/urban interface fire in the history~~
12 ~~of California; nearly 740,000 acres burned, 246 people were~~
13 ~~injured, and 24 Californians lost their lives, including one~~
14 ~~firefighter, and more than 3,600 homes, 36 commercial~~
15 ~~properties, and 1,169 outbuildings were destroyed; and~~

16 ~~WHEREAS, On November 2, 2003, then-Governor Gray~~
17 ~~Davis and then-Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger~~
18 ~~established a Blue Ribbon Fire Commission representing federal,~~
19 ~~state, and local agencies, the firefighting community, and~~
20 ~~affected communities; and~~

21 ~~WHEREAS, The Blue Ribbon Fire Commission was charged~~
22 ~~with hearing testimony on what worked and what did not work in~~
23 ~~the efforts to fight the October 2003 fires and with reviewing and~~
24 ~~providing recommendations on necessary improvements to~~
25 ~~prevent and better respond to these fires in the future; and~~

26 ~~WHEREAS, The commission, in its report to the Governor,~~
27 ~~made a number of recommendations and prioritized their~~
28 ~~importance, including the establishment of a permanent Joint~~
29 ~~Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland~~
30 ~~Security; and~~

31 ~~WHEREAS, The joint committee has explored the report of~~
32 ~~the Blue Ribbon Fire Commission and has taken action in~~
33 ~~support of the commission's findings and recommendations; and~~

34 ~~WHEREAS, The members of the joint committee recognize~~
35 ~~that the work of the joint committee needs to continue; now,~~
36 ~~therefore, be it~~

37 ~~WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency~~
38 ~~Services and Homeland Security was established by Resolution~~
39 ~~Chapter 106 of the Statutes of 2005 with a membership of 14~~
40 ~~members; and~~

1 WHEREAS, The Legislature finds it necessary to increase the
2 membership of that joint committee to 18 members; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly
5 thereof concurring, That the Joint Legislative Committee on
6 Emergency Services and Homeland Security—is—hereby
7 established; and be it further

8 Resolved, That the joint committee, established by Resolution
9 Chapter 106 of the Statutes of 2005, shall consist of 18 members,
10 who shall include nine Assembly Members appointed by the
11 Speaker of the Assembly, five from the party having the largest
12 number of Members in the Assembly and four from the party
13 having the second largest number of Members;; and nine
14 Senators appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, five from
15 the party having the largest number of Members in the Senate
16 and four from the party having the second largest number of
17 Members; and be it further

18 ~~Resolved, That the joint committee shall be under the direction~~
19 ~~of a chairperson and vice chairperson that shall alternate between~~
20 ~~the Assembly and the Senate from session to session and that~~
21 ~~initially the joint committee shall be under the direction of a~~
22 ~~Senate Chairperson and an Assembly Vice Chairperson,~~
23 ~~appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of~~
24 ~~the Assembly, respectively; and be it further~~

25 ~~Resolved, That the joint committee may provide a public~~
26 ~~forum for discussion of California's emergency services and~~
27 ~~homeland security and related issues to natural or human-caused~~
28 ~~threats to California; and be it further~~

29 ~~Resolved, That the joint committee, in order to assist it in~~
30 ~~carrying out its duties, may form technical advisory committees,~~
31 ~~including representatives from the public safety and emergency~~
32 ~~services disciplines, to help evaluate federal, state, and local~~
33 ~~strategies, provide technical assistance on an ongoing basis, and~~
34 ~~take active roles in supporting the passage of any necessary~~
35 ~~legislation; and be it further~~

36 ~~Resolved, That the joint committee may work in cooperation~~
37 ~~with the Governor and the standing committees and~~
38 ~~subcommittees of the Legislature to address the level of support~~
39 ~~necessary for public safety and related agencies to implement~~

1 essential emergency services and homeland security policies; and
2 be it further

3 ~~Resolved, That the joint committee may periodically report its~~
4 ~~progress and make recommendations to the Governor and the~~
5 ~~Legislature; and be it further~~

6 ~~Resolved, That the joint committee and its members shall have~~
7 ~~and exercise all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon~~
8 ~~investigating committees and their members by the Joint Rules of~~
9 ~~the Assembly and Senate as they are adopted and amended from~~
10 ~~time to time, which provisions are incorporated herein and made~~
11 ~~applicable to this committee and its members; and be it further~~

12 ~~Resolved, That the Senate Committee on Rules may make~~
13 ~~moneys available from the Senate Operating Fund, as it deems~~
14 ~~necessary, to pay expenses of the joint committee and its~~
15 ~~members, and that any expenditure of moneys shall be made in~~
16 ~~compliance with policies set forth by the Senate Committee on~~
17 ~~Rules and shall be subject to the approval of the Senate~~
18 ~~Committee on Rules; and be it further~~

19 ~~Resolved, That the joint committee is authorized to act until~~
20 ~~November 30, 2006, when its existence shall terminate; and be it~~
21 ~~further~~

22 ~~Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of~~
23 ~~this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.~~